



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310)659-0205 FAX(310)657-4340
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher E-Mail calpeek@aol.com

VOL. XXV
No. 13

MAR. 31, 2003

SPORTS & POLITICS: PUBLIC FUNDING OF SPORTS FACILITIES A TOUGH SELL INTO TODAY'S CLIMATE.

Editor's note: Given the budgetary red ink of most Calif. cities today, it's not likely that either San Diego, L.A. or S.F. will build new stadiums for sports teams with public tax dollars. That's the conclusion of most *Calpeek* sources we contacted for this story. Here's our analysis...

... While the San Diego City Council recently gave a thumbs up to let city negotiators sit down with representatives of the NFL's San Diego *Chargers*, it's been a year since team owners Alex & Dean Spanos asked the city to begin talks with them about a new stadium. Perhaps one reason for the stall was that city officials, including San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, didn't like the rumors which were being circulated that the franchise would move to L.A. if they weren't given a new stadium. In approving the talks, the council also OKed a \$250,000 budget to hire outside lawyers, accountants and other consultants who will handle day-to-day discussions with the team...

... Politically, these talks are not considered dangerous to Mayor Murphy's future plans to seek reelection next year. Murphy established a *Chargers* citizen task force to find a way to keep the team in San Diego without spending a ton of public money. The task force gives Murphy lots of political cover. The key recommendation of the task force is that the *Chargers* pay 100% of the construction costs for a new stadium in return for the development rights to the 166-acre Qualcomm Stadium site...

... In addition to the new stadium, the other key item on the table will be the current Qualcomm Stadium lease and the ticket guarantee. The ticket guarantee has been a real sticking point in San Diego – because when the stadium's 60,000 seat are not all sold, the city has to kick in money to the *Chargers*. This has cost the city millions and millions over the years – ever since the stadium was remodeled and re-named (from Jack Murphy Stadium). The ticket guarantee as a political issue is OFF THE CHARTS, one San Diego based political consultant told *Calpeek*...

... So for now, L.A. can forget about luring the *Chargers* away. It is not going to happen, at least not while both sides continue to negotiate and perhaps never if the *Chargers* go for the city-proposed deal...

... Meanwhile, up in San Francisco, building a new stadium for the NFL's *49ers* is in a permanent state of stall – at least that's how one source described the situation. Remember way back when former *49ers* owner Eddie DeBartolo and S.F. Mayor Willie Brown were talking about a \$525 million stadium-mall complex? Brown was smart enough to put it to a vote – a \$100 million bond measure. Meanwhile, the S.F. Co. Bd. of Supes have refused to sell the naming rights to the old stadium, thus it's back to being called Candlestick Park. Remember when it was called 3-Com Park? How much is this decision costing S.F.? About \$1 million per year – money which could be used to keep the city's Parks & Rec Dept. from cutting back on programs. Stay tuned...

BUSH AT WAR: CALIF. POLITICAL SHOCK AND AWE.

Editor's note: The war with Iraq has been ongoing for the past week – not going exactly the way Americans were led to believe it would, but nevertheless the eventual outcome of the war with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is not in doubt. There will be regime change. The only key questions will be the time required to accomplish this and the cost – both monetary and in human life. Still, there's lots of criticism aimed at the Bush White House. Here's our analysis & commentary...

... The key reason for much of the harsh criticism of Pres. George W. Bush(R) by most (but not all) Demos, is that bipartisan cooperation on foreign policy has come to an end. Contributing factors: end of the cold war; the 24-hour news cycle, combined with talk radio; and the emergence in 1992 of highly partisan politics, especially in the U.S. House and to a lesser extent in the U.S. Senate. The recent Demo criticism of White House war and foreign policy is viewed by some Demos as political payback. But what's really very troubling to some Demos, especially those who still hope for a more bipartisan approach, is the growing split within their party over the war and the concern that once

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK (ISSN 0195-6175) IS AN INDEPENDENT, NONPARTISAN NEWS ANALYSIS BULLETIN OF CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION. TELEPHONE: (310)659-0205. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. \$95/YEAR. PUBLISHED WEEKLY, 44 WEEKS PER YEAR. COPYRIGHTED BY CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK, INC. THIS TRADEMARK REGISTERED WITH THE CALIF. SECRETARY OF STATE. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART REQUIRES EXPRESS PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. 1ST CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT LOS ANGELES.

again many Demos may be going soft when it comes to protecting national security interests...

... The U.S. Senate voted 99-0 to support "the commander & chief AND the troops," while a similar resolution passed the U.S. House on a 392-11 vote, with 22 members voting *present*. Of those who voted no, 5 were from Calif.: U.S. Reps. Barbara Lee(D-Oakland); Pete Stark(D-Hayward); Mike Honda(D-San Jose); Maxine Waters and Diane Watson – Demos from L.A. U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee(D-Houston) now wants to *revisit* that vote and force Pres. Bush to return to Congress to ask for a declaration of war. Demo House Leader Nancy Pelosi(D-SF) must be pulling her hair out because this is last thing she needs right now...

... Of the five Demos who voted NO, there appears to be some movement to go after the 71-year-old Fortney H. "Pete" Stark of Hayward. This former banker (who bounced 64 checks at the House bank years ago), has a tendency to shoot from the lip. He recently told the *S.F. Chron* that he considers the military's plan to fire 3,000 missiles on Iraq to be "an act of extreme terrorism." And his hits on Pres. Bush have been *personalized*. *Calpeek* sources say there's growing pressure building on U.S. Rep. Howard Berman(D-L.A.) to recruit a credible primary opponent against Stark. Pressure could also be building on AG Bill Lockyer(D) – who has never liked Stark – to join Berman. Are there Demos who might be persuaded to challenge Stark? Two names have surfaced: former BOE member Johan Klehs and former State Sup. of Public Inst. Delaine Eastin. Given the new and higher McCain-Feingold contribution limits of \$2,000, it would not be difficult to raise a credible warchest with a donor base of 1,500 to 2,000...

... Closer to home, Assembly Demos & GOPers finally agreed on wording for a resolution to support "the troops." This resolution passed Mar. 25th on a 74-0 vote, but again it took arm twisting by Demos in DC and L.A. to get the language ironed out. The first draft of the Demo-backed resolution did not have "support the troops" language and the GOP Assembly spin machine was hammering them. The GOP plan was to jam the Demos with a very tough war resolution backing the troops and Bush, knowing that the Bush wording wouldn't fly with Demos. Then there was a resolution by GOP Leader Dave Cox to use exact same language which passed the U.S. Senate on a 99-0 vote – figuring if it was good enough for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, it ought to be OK with Assembly Demos...

... Passing a war resolution in the Legislature was a very touchy subject because there are a number of Demos

from marginal and swing districts. Back on Mar. 4th, 21 of 25 CA Senate Demos and 29 of 48 CA Assembly Demos sent a letter to Pres. Bush announcing their opposition to the war. In the Senate, Demos Florez, Dunn, Karnette and Ducheny were the four who did not sign. In the assembly, Demos such as Nakano, Parra, Vargas, Wolk, Matthews, Kehoe, Frommer, Correa, Cohn and Cancia-millia were among a large group who did not sign. They were part of the *Coalition of the Willing*. Some of these Assembly Demos (underlined) hope to win State Senate seats in 2004 and thus a stand against the war could have had serious political consequences. *Softness* against Saddam Hussein could be taken as a sign of *appeasement*. But the bigger questions is this: once the fighting is over, will the anti-war feelings of other CA Senate or Assembly Demos come back to bite them in 2004? The only Demo who got it right was Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes of Fresno, who said they were all wasting their time with the war resolution and instead should have been working on the State budget crisis. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: EX-SFPD CHIEF RIBERA JOINS THE GROWING FIELD TO REPLACE S.F. MAYOR BROWN.

Editor's note: With his announcement on March 22nd, former SFPD Chief Tony Ribera becomes the 5th serious candidate running in November to replace *termed out* Mayor Willie Brown. But the real question surrounding Ribera's candidacy is whether he's trying to promote himself or bash S.F. DA Terence Hallinan? Here's our update & analysis...

... Among the mayoral field which now includes S.F. Co. Supes Tom Ammiano & Gavin Newsom; S.F. Treasurer Susan Leal and former S.F. Co. Sup. Angela Alioto, the 58-year-old Ribera is really a long shot. Not only will he have a tough time raising money (he has lent his campaign about \$50,000 in seed money), but his GOP registration might not fly all that well with the mostly liberal S.F. voter base. In other words, Ribera may have a tough time getting political traction. But this doesn't seem to discourage Ribera, who grew up in the city...

... It's obvious from his announcement that he plans to make law & order his primary issue. Ribera was on the force for 28 years, but retired in 1996 when Brown became mayor. Ribera's key campaign promise: to restore confidence in the S.F.P.D., badly shaken by the recent indictments of key command staff – all stemming from a felony assault by three young PD officers last year, one of whom was Asst. Chief Alex Fagan's son. Ribera also took a very strong shot at Hallinan, saying his campaign "would expose the incompetence" of Hallinan, who he called "arguably the worst DA in Calif." Ribera's dislike of Hallinan is strong and this is

why some wonder if his real purpose in the mayor's contest is to go after Hallinan...

...How will Ribera impact the other candidates? If he is unable to raise the money, he won't be a factor, but if he's got just enough to be credible, he'll run to the right of Newsom – thus making Newsom look more centrist. Prior to Ribera's entry, Newsom was seen as "the conservative" in the field...

...FYI: most all of the serious candidates have hired well known campaign professionals to run their campaigns. Newsom has hired media consultant Eric Jaye and campaign mgr. Jim Ross; Leal has hired Staton-Hughes; and Alioto has hired Oakland-based consultant Larry Tramutola. Ammiano has never hired well-known consultants and instead uses the grassroots approach. *Calpeek* sources haven't heard of any well-known campaign pro signing on with Ribera. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.

Editor's note: Here is *Part VII* in our continuing series of update about CA Legislative and U.S. House primaries...

☒ **47th AD** – This is Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson's AD and he's *termed out*. Thus far, three names have surfaced: attorney Rickie Ivy, a former UCLA student body president; Joey Hill, aide to State Sen. Kevin Murray; AND Herb Wesson III – the speaker's son. Whether Ivy or Hill stay in is up in the air. If they do it will be an interesting campaign. While this AD takes in a number of prominent Black neighborhoods, it also includes Palms, WLA, parts of Westwood and the Beverlywood areas. Thus if there were 2-3 strong Black candidates, a lone White liberal candidate would have a shot at winning. Interesting...

☒ **63rd AD** – This is the San Bernardino Co. AD which currently belongs to Assemblyman Bob Dutton. Most GOP sources expect Dutton to seek the 31st SD seat of Jim Brulte (R-Rancho Cucamonga), who is *termed out*. Thus far only one candidate: GOP San Bernardino Co. chair Elia Pirozzi. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he ran for the U.S. House against George Brown (1998) and also ran against Demo Joe Baca in 2000 – after Brown's death. The 63rd AD is solid GOP turf and Pirozzi should win if there are no other serious Republicans in the primary...

☒ **37th AD** – A massive free-for-all is shaping up in this Ventura Co. AD currently represented by Tony Strickland, the GOP Assembly Caucus chair. Like former Assemblyman George Runner (R-Palmdale), Strickland too is attempting to hand off his job to his wife, Audra. But Mrs. Strick-

land will have some solid competition from Mike Robinson, an aide to State Sen. Tom McClintock (R-Camarillo). And then there's former Ventura Co. Deputy DA Jeff Gorell, who is backed by Assemblyman Keith Richman in the neighboring 38th AD. And there's also Jon Williams, MD. Strickland has won endorsements from 24 of the 32 GOP Assemblymembers – including GOP Leader Dave Cox...

☒ **35th AD** – This the Santa Barbara AD now held by Hannah-Beth Jackson (D), who is *termed out*. Although there may be other Demos, the one getting the most play is Coastal Commissioner Pedro Nava. On the GOP side, four names have surfaced: former Assemblyman Brooks Firestone (GOP assembly leadership is said to be leaning on Firestone); Beth Rogers, who just ran for congress against Demo Lois Capps (she probably won't run); Santa Barbara Co. Sup. Joni Gray; and perhaps Bob Pohl, who was running against Jackson but had to stop campaign when he was diagnosed with cancer. He was considered a strong candidate, but whether his health will permit him to run is still an open question. If Firestone could be persuaded to run, and if he were the GOP nominee, he could win this AD...

☒ **53rd AD** – This is the So. Bay AD now represented by George Nakano of Torrance. Thus far there's only one Demo in the race: El Segundo Mayor Mike Gordon and sources say Gordon is trying to make sure the field is clear of other Demos. He's already hired SG&A Campaigns (Parke Skelton & Steve Barkan). On the GOP side, there are at least 5 candidates who are looking. They include: Torrance School Bd. member Gary Kuwahara; Torrance Councilman Paul Nowatka; Manhattan Beach Councilmembers Linda Wilson (she ran against Nakano in '02) and Steve Napolitano; and perhaps Redondo Beach Councilman Greg Hill. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 3	Pat Brown Inst. 22 nd annual awards dinner, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
Apr. 12	28 th annual Coro Foundation of So. Calif. gala dinner honoring U.S. Sen. Feinstein, Century Plaza Hotel, L.A.
May 1	SCAG 2003 General Assembly, L.A.
May 14-16	Regional Council of Rural Counties annual meeting, Napa Valley Marriott.
May 20	L.A. muni runoff election.
June 1-2	CA Mobilehome Parkowners Alliance symposium, Las Vegas, NV.
June 5-10	71 st annual U.S. Conf. of Mayors, Denver, CO
July 23-26	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures annual meeting, S.F.
Nov. 4	S.F. Muni Election + other cities

FERC RULES CALIF. WAS MANIPULATED BY ENERGY COMPANIES DURING CRISIS; AWARDS \$3.3 BILLION.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Comm.(FERC) ruled on Mar. 26th that yes indeed energy suppliers gamed and manipulated Calif.'s deregulated energy market in 2000-01 and that Calif. is due back some \$3.3 billion in overcharges. While Gov. Gray Davis(D) was pleased with the broad ruling – “that FERC finally recognized what we’ve known for 3 years, that we were manipulated” – he indicated that an award of \$3.3 billion is totally insufficient – “it just doesn’t get the job done.” The State is seeking \$9 billion in refunds from overcharges. Davis said the State would ask for a rehearing on the award and if FERC didn’t come through the State of Calif. would once again go to the court to seek justice. In Washington DC, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D) sent a letter to AG John Ashcroft asking the DOJ to fully probe and prosecute allegations of possible anti-trust and fraud laws by the various energy companies named in the FERC documents. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK’S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor’s note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Davis Recall Gets OK to Circulate*** – CA SOS Kevin Shelley(D) has given the green light to the Recall Gov. Gray Davis Cmt. to begin circulating petitions. Deadline for collecting 897,158 valid signatures is Sept. 2nd. In reality, recall proponents need about 1.2 million signatures to insure qualification. There are two recall groups, but they are all working off a single recall petition written by Ted Costa of *People’s Advocate*. A group led by former Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian is urging recall supporters to download petitions at www.recallgraydavis.com. Still, there’s no big money behind this recall effort and to succeed most sources still think it’s necessary to have “boots on the ground” – meaning paid petition circulators...

■ ***CDP Against Connerly Info Ban Initiative*** – For the record, at the recent CA Demo Party(CDP) in Sacramento, delegates went on record opposing UC Regent Ward Connerly’s *Ban on Information Initiative*. The controversial initiative will be on the March 2004 ballot. The initiative would make it difficult to fight discrimination by eliminating info needed to prove bias in employment, housing, health, education and other areas...

■ ***Open Primary Initiative Dropped*** – As was reported in George Skelton’s *L.A. Times* column on Mar. 24th, the CA Chamber of Commerce & the CA Business Roundtable have dropped their plans to place a new, revised open primary initiative on the Calif. ballot. Just too much op-

position from GOP lawmakers and politicians – the stated reason. *Calpeek* sources say the two business groups had done some polling and had such a plan been put on the ballot, odds are pretty good it might have passed...

■ ***Calpeek’s Legal File*** – Former South Gate Treasurer Albert Robles entered a no contest plea March 24th to two misdemeanor counts of possessing semi-automatic assault weapons. Robles was fined \$610, sentenced to 250 hours of community service and is now on probation for 4 years. Both sides said they were pleased, but news accounts say Robles may not be out of the woods just yet. Local and U.S. prosecutors are still probing...

CALPEEK’S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor’s note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Harold Willens, 88, liberal political activist who sponsored Calif.’s nuclear freeze initiative in 1981, died Mar. 17th of a heart attack at his home in Brentwood. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Stanley Hirsh, 76, publisher of the *Jewish Journal of Greater L.A.*, died Mar. 22nd at his home in Studio City of brain cancer. R.I.P...

● In addition to his law practice at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, former Assemblyman Robert Hertzberg(D) has joined Fleishman-Hillard’s L.A. office as a sr. consultant...

● CA SOS Kevin Shelley(D) has hired his legislative press secretary, Terri M. Carbaugh, as Asst. SOS for strategic communications...

● CA District Atty. Assn. executive director Larry Brown has resigned to become 1st Asst. U.S. Atty. for the Eastern District of Calif. Brown was with CDAA for 7 years...

● Political consultant Gene Wise has joined the L.A. office of Edelman Worldwide PR, as a sr. vp in the public affairs & issues management practice section of the office...

● Former State Sen. Richard Rainey is the new regional director for HUD – based in S.F. He’ll oversee 4 states in HUD’s Pacific Hawaii region...

● Frank G. Tripepi, former Rosemead city mgr., has been elected to the Board of Directors of The Willdan Group of Companies...